VOLUME XXIV NO. 8
AUGUST 1962

CONSERVATION NEWS

Best news of the month is the passage of the Point Reyes National Seashore bill through the House, a few days after the Rules Committee cleared it for action.

The only amendment to the bill was a change in the length of time during which owners of residences built before September 1959 could occupy their property. This was set at fifty years instead of lifetime tenure. Now the bill goes back to the Senate to iron out some minor differences in the two bills. Unitl it is safely through the final stages we will withhold our cheers but it does look as if there will be a Point Reyes National Seashore.

Disappointment at failure of the State Park Bond issue was increased by the decision in Sacramento not to offer it again on the November ballot. The bonds failed by such a small margin that if one voter in about seventy-five had changed his mind on learning more about the proposition, the bonds would have passed. A second attempt seemed obviously in order, but in spite of letters and other appeals, it was dropped. Our own Assemblyman wrote ".... The Governor does not plan to place the State Park Bond issue before us for approval. I regret there is nothing more we can do in view of the Governor's position." The Governor's office wrote "....I regret I was unable to ask the Legislature to resubmit the Park and Recreation issue because the Republican leadership in the Assembly turned down my request for bipartisan support."

The Chapter Conservation Committee, through its chairman, John J. Thomas, expressed doubts about the proposed rifle and pistol range in Grass Valley Regional Park. Mr. William Penn Mott, Jr., new Superintendent of the Regional Parks, replies that "Aesthetically and acoustically it will not infringe upon or jeopardize existing developments or use of Grass Valley Regional Park." If Mr. Mott can really keep a rifle range both hidden and quiet we will believe he can do anything. —CMC

SALMON-TRINITY ALPS TRIP

On June 30-July 1, an unusual and delightful weekend in the Trinity Alps country was enjoyed by 37 intrepid wilderness buffs of the Club. The trip, ably led by Sam Axtell, co-led by John Surhoff, with central cuisine presided over by Chef Roberto Dolan, began at Eagle Creek early Saturday morning. After a brief sleep, we awakened to consume a huge ranch-type breakfast served at the lodge.

We were then shuttled by bus to the north fork of Coffee Creek and began the 3,000 foot climb for Stoddard Lake where camp was made.

To help us cover as much of the beautiful Trinity Alps country as possible, our wily leader engaged a string of mules to carry

our heavy dunnage to the lake. This enabled many people to hike beyond Stoddard Lake to gem-like Doe Lake at 7,300 feet. Swimming was enjoyed by several of us in this delightful cirque-shaped lake—which was hardly freezing at all!

Those who had visited Doe Lake, and others who had gone over the crest to get their first magnificent view of Mt. Shasta, stumbled into camp at 6 p.m., and had true appreciation for the astounding gourmet repast prepared by Chef Roberto.

Included were appetizers of smoked oysters and clams; the entree was marinated steak, served with green salad with a

CONTINUED PAGE THREE

NS VISITS SUNOL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK

On June 24 the Natural Science Section held its monthly field trip, exploring Sunol Valley Regional Park, most recent area to be incorporated into our East Bay's splendid system of regional parks.

Following the usual pattern of coordinating each of the monthly field trips with the preceding monthly evening meeting, this trip had its natural history emphasis placed upon insects as encountered in the field (the month's evening meeting, June 15, had been a lecture by Dr. Jerry Powell, entomologist from the University of California, on "Natural History of California Butterflies"). Accompanying the leaders (Harold Sharp and John Thomas) of the field trip, was Robbin Thorp, graduate student in entomology at the University of California. Armed with insect net and plenty of knowledge of the haunts and manners of insects, Mr. Thorp gave the 45 members of the trip an eye-opening excursion into the much-populated world of insects.

Following Alameda Creek downstream from Park Headquarters about 2 miles to its confluence with Welch Creek, the group was able to see and enjoy this unspoiled, typical bit of Coast Range terrain with senses alerted to a part of their environment they might have missed entirely had it not been for the interesting observations and comments of Robbin Thorp.

The return was up Welch Creek, a wooded tributary to Alameda Creek where evidences of spring's moisture and verdure still lingered. Here the Clarkias (Godetias of a prior day), known so aptly as Farewell-to-Spring, were in abundance on the hillslopes. In California's vernal flora, these

CONTINUED PAGE TWO

Sierra Club Yodeler

A publication of the San Francisco Bay Chapter. Address all communications to Yodeleditor, 1050 Mills Tower, San Francisco 4

For club members only, classified ads (private transactions), will be accepted at the rate of 35¢ per line of printed copy. The 'enterprise' rate is 70¢ per line. Persons submitting ads may compute their copy on the basis of approximately 7 words per line. Check must accompany copy. Commercial advertising is solicited. Please request rate card.

YODELER STAFF
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VOL. XXIV, No. 8 August, 1962

BULLETIN BOARD

SCHEDULE MAILING NIGHT

Get your Schedule early! Mailing night for the Fall issue of the Bay Chapter Schedule will be Wednesday, August 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Club office. Call Wes Bunnelle, OL 5-3652 if you can help with labeling August 11 or 13.

MUSEUM DIRECTOR NEEDED

The Natural Science Museum at 76 Albert Park Lane, San Rafael, will need a new Director by September 1, due to the promotion of Mr. Murray Dailey. Applicants wishing more information should contact Louise A. Boyd at the Museum.

SCHEDULE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Bay Chapter Schedule needs both an Advertising Manager and a Circulation Manager. If you want to be part of an interesting and vital Chapter activity, learn more about the Club and its members — you'll like working on the Schedule. Call Wes or Hasse Bunnelle, OL 5-3652.

S. F. DINNER: AUG. 30

How to find "choice car-campsites in California" will be the topic of Jim Barbour's illustrated talk which will mark the high point of the San Francisco group's dinner meeting at the Golden Gate Yacht Club on Thursday, August 30. Jim's outstanding collection of color slides and thorough knowledge of his subject make the evening one that you will not want to miss. Plan now to attend!

Social Hour: 6:15 to 7:15 p.m.

Dinner: 7:15 p.m., $2.00

Limit 150 people. Reservations required. Please call Nancy Pawley JO 7-8835, or Renee Gross, OR 3-8965, before 9 p.m., August 28.

SCHEDULE SUPPLEMENT

AUG. 31-SEPT. 3 - Leisure knapsacking trip to Chain Lakes is cancelled. No leader available. Better luck next year—especially if YOU will help by leading a trip.

OCTOBER 7— Save the Date! This will be Chapter Day. Open House and Chapter Meeting at West Point Inn, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Everybody come! Details next month.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I should like to broadcast my appreciation of that admirable breed of Sierra Clubber, the outing leader. As an end of the line follower I have been gratified for many years by the ease with which the knapsacker scans the schedule, selects a trip to his taste, picks up the phone, arranges a ride, and with no preparation to speak of is taken on a smoothly conducted jaunt to some beautiful distant spot, at negligible cost.

This past weekend, traveling with LaVerne and Luis Ireland on one of these effortless (to me) excursions, I began to ponder the mechanics of the machine: the hours spent in planning meetings, in leadership courses, first aid classes, nature study seminars. The Irelands had taken the long drive up Carson Pass the previous weekend and walked in to check route, campsite, snow etc. as well as the road condition. They had spent untold time (and money) on the phone getting the rides arranged and the drivers instructed. LaVerne incidentally had shopped and packed food for seven people. Then the trip, with its burden of responsibility for the safety and conduct of the participants, and the careful briefing and photography to further the conservation aim of the trip — the creation of a Mokelumne Wild Area.

I thought of another dedicated leader who first exemplified to me the considerate, self-effacing, tireless qualities I have noted since: Dick Monges. Some who did not know Dick thought he was a slow walker because he always brought up the rear. After you saw him hit his pace you realized that he came last in order to encourage the slow ones; often he was breaking in a new leader at the front. Uncounted beginners besides me learned from Dick, and from others like him.

These observations I am sure apply to the other sections of the club — river touring, rock climbing, mountaineering, car camping, the winter sports. All this wealth of human resource and devotion goes into the terse announcement: Beginners welcome.

Sincerely,
Charlotte Dorsey

WEST POINT HOSTESS SCHEDULE

AUGUST 4. 5	ELEANOR LOCEY	5TH 1-0879
AUGUST 11-12	JOHN AND BERNICE GREEN	FI 6-5981
AUGUST 18-19	CAROLYN NELSON AND MARY HERMAN	GL 3-9469 MO 4-2983
AUGUST 25	PRIVATE PARTY	
AUGUST 26	CONSTANCE KARLA	DU 8-4245

Letters to Editor (Continued)

SUNOL VALLEY (Continued)

are among the latest of the annual species which cloak the hillsides with color. Clarkias, we found, also signify interesting interrelationships between plant and insect life, since certain species of insects are known to use as plant hosts only certain species of Clarkias, and never to stray to other hosts.

Climbing the ridge between Welch Creek and Alameda Creek, the last of the circle route lay in the open grassland, warmed to toasty temperature by a sun which belied the Farewell-to-Spring colonies over on the shady side of the ridge, and proclaimed, "Hail Summer" to all in the group as they reached the end of an instructive, enjoyable trip. —Helen K. Sharsmith

LEISURE KNAPSACKING

A "Gee, isn't science wonderful" leisure knapsacking trip, under the direction of Phyllis Lindley and Pete Hall, was undertaken June 16-17. The 7 1/2 mile trip from Cherry Dam to Kibbie Lake was broken so frequently by questions concerning the geology of the area or plant classifications that everyone had ample time to "supervise" the work done by the trail crew and still arrive in camp not winded in the last.

It might be added that the first 1 1/2 miles was in the back of a pick-up, a mode of transportation frowned upon by club purists.

Sunday, the peal of a Boy Scout bugle told us that others considered the lake a prime camping spot. With some caution we were able to make a complete tour of the area, with Pete Hall pointing out significant geological features, while avoiding realistic war games undertaken by the Scouts.

The trip out, sans pick-up, seemed longer; but enough questions were asked so that a slow and comfortable pace was maintained.

—WCMB

SALMON-TRINITY (Cont.)

dressing made by a secret and guarded recipe. Dessert was rum cake, served with blueberry sauce, for which everyone managed to find a bit of room.

Breakfast was eagerly anticipated because of trout caught by several of the group. These were served along with marinated ham steak apple sauce, sweet rolls and coffee.

With this proper nourishment, many of the group were able to hike to the two other Stoddard Lakes located above us, and also tried these for swimming. Some of the more rugged got as near to the top of Billy's Peak as time allowed. Hiking varied from 12 to 25 miles.

Spring had just arrived in this region and everything was lush and green. Many varieties of wild flowers were seen, some of the more unusual being Glacier Lily, Red Columbine, Cobra Lily and Marsh Marigolds. Blue, yellow and white violets filled the meadows.

Because of his outstanding service and devotion to the cause of palatable food and gracious living in the wilderness, the group voted to award Chef Roberto with the Order of the Red Star.

Late Sunday afternoon we returned to the bus at the rancho for the ride home, carrying a load of tired but happy hikers back to the Bay Area. —Helen Deman

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FOR SALE: Trapper Nelson Pack, large size. Good condition, reasonable. SE 1-1668

EAST BAY DINNER

The East Bay Dinner Committee is proud to announce a new dinner and program plan which we are bursting at the seams to tell you about.

New Location: The dinners will be held at the College Womens Club, 2680 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Drive along College Ave. towards U.C., turn left on Bancroft - the Club is next to the Standard Station (Corner College and Bancroft). Remember Bancroft is ONE WAY heading West.

New Plan: There will be only one dinner and program a month. This will fall on the second Wednesday of every month. The food is excellent and we will have varied menus. Harold Sharp, we are happy to say, is our program chairman again, and he has some terrific shows lined up for this Fall.

The Shows:

On Sept. 12, Al Baxter will show his pictures of the Sierra Club Ruwenzori Range expedition of July-Aug., 1960. Al and Doug Powell were co-managers of this expedition into the Uganda-Congo country of Africa. See your Sierra Club Bulletin Annual of Oct. 1961 for a review of the trip. This will be a show you won't want to miss.

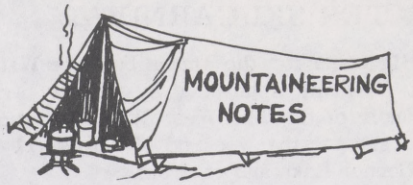
Bert Harwell, famous for his bird studies, will show his movie "Forgotten Country" on Oct. 10. Mr. Harwell is an Audubon Screen Tour Lecturer and his movie sequences were used by Walt Disney for "Vanishing Prairie" and "Water Birds." This movie of Mr. Harwell's is a must for all of the "Birdwatchers" of the Sierra Club and their friends.

Attention Hawaii Trippers: Nov. 14 should be of special interest to all of you. Frank S. Cummings (remember his wonderful Navajoland movies) will show his movie "Hawaii and its Volcanoes." He was fortunate enough to catch the volcanoes in action. Come and reminisce with us.

Christmas, Santa Claus and Ethel Rose Horsfall. These will be the stars of the Dec. 12 Christmas Party. It is a program we all look forward to. Thanks to Ethel Rose Horsfall's capable planning and her love for children young and old it will be an evening to remember. This is a family affair. The more kiddies the merrier.

So you see we have really been plotting. Let's have a full house each time. The Dinners come only once a month now.

Patricia M. Bauer
Publicity Chairman
East Bay Dinners



SNOW CLIMBING TRAINING 1962

Snow climbing training was conducted by the Mountaineering Section on Memorial Day, near Sonora Pass, and on June 16-17 in the Snow Bowl on Mt. Tallac. Those who were out on May 30 had the experience of participating in a snow climb on a nearby peak.

This year's weekend session was changed from the Crystal Range to Mt. Tallac so that climbers could back pack in, and yet be able to camp a few yards from the practice slopes. This situation permitted more training time. Another advantage was that camping conditions were like those that would be encountered high on a mountain above the tree line. Most of the meals were prepared on stoves, and tents were set up on snow or rock. The nearness of the snow made possible a 5 a.m. rising on Sunday to practice on hard snow. Unfortunately it did not freeze during the night so no hard snow. —Bill Engs

GLACIER TRAINING PRACTICE

Your are invited to attend our scheduled Glacier Training Practice in August. Attendance at local climbs and good (backpacking) condition are prerequisites.

MT. SHASTA

A Mountaineering Section training climb of Mt. Shasta was made on July 7-8. The objctive, to set up a high altitude camp on Saturday and climb to the summit on Sunday, was accomplished by a party of five, including Maurice Bernard from France. The weekend weather was perfect.

Most of Saturday was spent hauling packs up 5,000 feet, including 3,000 feet of snow. Camp was set up at 11,900 feet elevation near the Whitney Glacier.

On Sunday everyone was up at 4 a.m. for a simple breakfast. The wind made lighting the stove difficult. Perhaps it would have been better to have forgotten about the hot soup. The party crossed the Whitney Glacier, climbed 1,300 feet of hard snow and continued to the summit. The descent was fast, but glissading was difficult because of heavy packs and irregularities of the snow. It was good experience. —Bill Engs

SHRINER LAKE TRIP

Our hikers found a profusion of small wildflowers along the trail paralleling Cole Creek and spent a leisurely lunch drying off the results of having to ford the creek.

We then took, cross-country, to the rocks to climb the ridge on which Shriner Lake is perched. The weather was beautiful, the lake a perfect swimming pool. We saw some good-sized fish jump at twilight, while nighthawks darted overhead.

—LaVerne Ireland

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WATER SKI CARNIVAL

Big plans for the annual Summer Water Ski Carnival, sponsored by the Bay Area Council of the Far West Ski Association, are set for the weekend of August 11-12 at Donner Lake and environs.

Starting Saturday morning at Donner Lake with water skiing and a noon picnic, the party will migrate up the historic mountain pass to Donner Ski Ranch for happy-hour. From 5 to 7, one dollar will buy a ticket worth 3 ski lift rides, the same for 3 cocktails. The barbecue dinner ($2.00) designed to fortify skiers for Sunday on the water, begins at 6:30, and lasts till sundown.

Join the party at 9 a.m. Saturday morning on the beach at the north end of Donner Lake. For further information, contact Geoge Todoroff at PR 5-9815, or at Clair Tappaan Lodge the eve of the big splash.

CLASSIFIED AD

KAYAK for sale: Hammer Champion with spray deck and paddle, $135. GR 4-6677

HOME for Sale: Montclair, Oakland. By owner, 5656 Merriewood drive. 2 bdms., 1 bath. View. Small secluded cottage. Hilly, many pines, stairs. Fireplace & garage $16,300. OL 4-2330.

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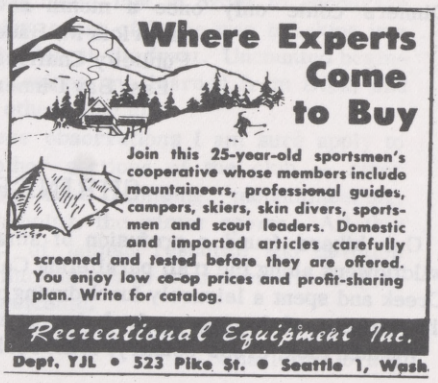
CALAVERAS BIG TREES WEEKEND

Not many people who visit Calaveras Big Trees State Park know that the Park provides a group camp nearby. About fifty car-campers (with some uncounted small folk) enjoyed this camp on July 7-8, under leaders Mildred Hilkey and Tom Mohler. Most of us spent Saturday exploring Columbia and other points on Highway 49, then drove up to Calaveras for the evening. Some attended the official campfire at the State Park, while others sat around an informal campfire at the group camp. A hike next morning took some to a look-out while the rest of us enjoyed more Mother Lode country on the way home. It was a cheery and congenial group, but crowded in a camp which was not particularly attractive in spite of luxurious hot showers.

A severe fire hazard in thick, half-dead small trees and brush was obvious, showing the dilemma of the Sierra foresters who have kept out small fires only to set the stage for larger ones. And please, friendly car campers, do remember that both the Sierra Club and the Parks have definite rules about dogs in camp. Please don't embarrass the leaders, who are responsible to the Park officers, but want you to enjoy the camp too.

—CMC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S.F. JUNE DINNER MEETING SPAGHETTI & FLOWERS

The San Francisco Group of the Bay Chapter converged upon the Golden Gate Yacht Club for their regular last-Thursday-of-the-month dinner meeting to hear John Thomas Howell talk on wild flowers of the western National Parks.

Colored slides brought some of the botanical treasures of Mount Rainier, the Olympic Peninsula, the Oregon Cascades, Crater Lake, Mont Lassen, Yosemite and Kings Canyon before the group as John gave Latin and common names along with fascinating details that inevitably invest everything that grows, no matter how weedy, ragged, plain or humble, with personality, beauty and a logical place in nature.

Each locale, with its own geography and climate, produces its own environment and flower specialties. In the northern rain forests, the flowers and plants prefer to root in the tree bark and rock ledges above the boggy ground where they would only drown, a fact which results in the jungle look.

Further south, the daisy-like yellow flowers that masquerade as black-eyed Susans to the mis-informed, but are officially graced with the label of Bigelow Sneezeweed, fill the Camp Curry meadows.

One of the most exquisite flowers shown to this flower watcher's eyes, proved to belong to our Sierras: the Little Gilias of Kings Canyon, that require close scrutiny for appreciation, since they are only a quarter-inch across. Even for the Sierra veteran, John provided first-time glimpses of unknown flowers like a Lewisia that hides atop granite domes and blooms briefly when its toes are washed by the icy water of melted snow.

—B.E.